

Amend the Claims as indicated in the following Claim set:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the coating of a ~~wooden and/or cellulose-containing~~reconstituted wood substrate comprising the steps of:
  - a) applying a press coating as an aqueous colloidal dispersion to the substrate;
  - b) applying heat and pressure to the coated substrate to cure the press coating and to obtain a substrate with a smooth coating film, with the pressure being such that the substrate is not substantially compressed;
  - c) applying a top coat to the substrate after the curing of the press coating; and
  - d) curing said top coat.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein in an additional step before the top coat is applied, a primer coating is applied and cured.
3. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein all process steps are performed on a single production line.
4. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the top coat is a radiation curable top coat and the radiation curable top coat is cured using UV radiation.
5. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein before the top coat is applied, a printing is applied on the substrate and the top coat is applied on top of said printing.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the press coat is a aqueous colloidal dispersion comprising:

- particles of a polymer of an ethylenically unsaturated monomer, and

- 40 - 60 wt.%, based on the total weight of the emulsion solids, of filler and/or pigment.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

A two-month extension of time is hereby requested so that the period for taking action now expires on June 30, 2004.

The removal of the various grounds of rejection under the second paragraph of Section 112 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Entry of this Amendment is requested since it should either place the present invention in condition for allowance or in better form for Appeal.

Basis for reciting the coating of a reconstituted wood substrate appears at page 1, lines 10-12 of the present application. The definition of a reconstituted wood substrate and examples of such a substrate are presented at page 1, line 15 to page 2, line 2. Page 3, lines 28-29 provides basis for the recitation of an aqueous colloidal dispersion.

Sheets describes a process in which an overlay paper that has been primed with a primer/sealer is laminated to a hardboard product. The primed paper is dried before it is applied to the hardboard. The current process involves the application of a press coating as a liquid coating to a reconstituted wood substrate. Hence, the process defined by the pending Claims is both novel and nonobvious over Sheets.

The process described by Sheets requires the preparation of resin-impregnated, adhesive-backed overlay paper that is then laminated. This process comprises a relatively large number of process steps. On the other hand, in the present process a press coating is directly applied to a reconstituted wood substrate. This requires a fewer number of process steps and is not suggested by the Sheets patent.

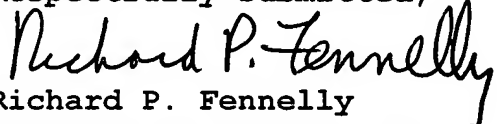
For the foregoing reasons, the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6 should be removed.

In addition, it is requested that the rejection of Claims 4 and 5 be removed since the secondary art of Cooley (U.S. Patent No. 4,587,141) fails to cure the clear deficiencies of Sheets that have been previously provided in showing the general outlines of the claimed invention.

Allowance of all pending Claims is again solicited in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned for a further discussion of the claimed invention and the cited art if it is deemed helpful to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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